Government Documents
BRA
2419

A Tour of
Famous American
Historic Shrines

welcome to the Freedom Trail and the many worlds of Boston

A Declaration

Whereas, Boston has held a place of special honor in American history since Colonial days, and

Whereas, Boston bears the title "the Birthplace of American Freedom" for her unique role in the War for Independence, and

Whereas, contemporary Boston is indeed fortunate to have a significant number of Revolutionary shrines preserved along the Freedom Trail, and

Whereas, these sites call to mind the patriotic words and deeds of Americans who serve as an inspiration to future generations, and

Whereas, the Freedom Trail offers an unexcelled glimpse into the American past of Adams, Hancock and Revere,

Now, therefore, I, Kevin H. White, Mayor of the City of Boston, do declare that the Freedom Trail shall remain open to the peoples of the world and that all are welcome to visit Boston, walk the Freedom Trail and share in our part of America's heritage.

Kevin H. White

Kevin H. White
Mayor

Travel the Freedom Trail

From the Boston Common to the U.S.S. Constitution you'll find many points of interest allowing you to relive the history that made Boston famous. There are sixteen numbered historic sites and several other interesting landmarks along the Freedom Trail.

The easy-to-follow map at the back illustrates the Freedom Trail — from its start on the Boston Common, near the Park Street subway to the final stop at the U.S.S. Constitution in Charlestown.

Use this booklet as your guide, and save it as a souvenir of the Freedom Trail. Enjoy the Trail by leisurely walking it, riding the MBTA Freedom Trail Shuttle Bus or using a sightseeing bus or taxi.

The Freedom Trail is approximately 1½ miles in length from site number 1 to site number 15, marked alternately by a red brick path or line and footprints at street crossings. It is an additional 2½ miles from site 15 to 16. Check carefully the opening and closing hours of the places you intend to visit. *Please remember that the churches on the Freedom Trail hold regular services which you will wish to respect.*

THE FREEDOM TRAIL FOUNDATION, INC. *A community public service project*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: *Chairman of the Board* — Mayor Kevin H. White • *Vice Chairman of the Board* — Robert F. Friedmann • *President* — Leverett Saltonstall • *Assistant Clerk* — Edward L. LaVine • **DIRECTORS:** Warren Berg • W. Edward Boughton • James M. Connolly • Kenneth Guscott • Stacy Holmes • Herbert W. Jarvis • Reverend Carl E. Scovel • Steven T. Riley • Richard Lombardi • **ADVISORY COUNCIL:** Douglas Adams • Allan Baker • Thomas J. Brown • Luella Cannam • Prof. Nancy Caruso, Joseph Casazza • Joseph Curtis • Philip D'Alessandro • John F. X. Davoren • Samuel D. Foust • Col. Warren Higgins • Mrs. Adelaide Hill • Henry Hornblower • Arthur M. Jones • Mrs. Louis I. Kane • James G. Kelso • Robert T. Kenney • Robert S. Kretschmar • Betty Krulee • Henry Sears Lodge • Right Reverend Albert Low • Paul McDermott • John P. McMorrow • Comm. Edward McNamara • Lawrence H. Martin • Melvin Miller • William Noonan • William Ohrenberger • Morgan H. Plummer • Robert Sage • William Schofield • Mrs. Frances Smith • Arthur Stickney • John Wilson • Rear Adm. Joseph C. Wylie. **COUNCIL OF HISTORIC SITES:** Mrs. Ropes Cabot • Benjamin W. Fink • Reverend Robert Golledge • Dr. Richard Hale • Cdr. John McKinnon • Paul Revere, Jr. • Reverend Carl E. Scovel • Reverend Paul E. Toms • Dr. Walter M. Whitehill • Col. Lewis Whittemore.

CREDITS: Tenth Printing: Courtesy of sponsors listed at the back; Brochure Design — Parsons, Friedmann & Central Inc.; Color illustrations — John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company, Mike Roberts Color Slides and Colour Picture Publishers; Map — Richard F. Lufkin Company.

Boston...Yesterday and Today

Physically, the Freedom Trail — on New England's Heritage Trail — runs from the Common to the U.S.S. Constitution. Historically, it runs from the Mayflower Compact and the Charter of 1628, past the spire where Paul Revere's lanterns hung at the Old North Church, through and beyond the great anti-slavery speeches of the abolitionists Garrison and Sumner at Park Street Church. During this span, Boston has won much for freedom. In Boston, the Charter of the Massachusetts Bay Company was transformed from that of a business organization to that of a working democracy. As the focal point of the American Revolution, Boston was foremost in protesting the tyranny of the British Crown, until it finally became necessary to take arms. On April 18, 1775, Joseph Warren, a Revolutionary leader, sent out the call to action. Revere and others carried it, and the fighting part of the American Revolution began. Most are aware of how Warren died at Bunker Hill, how Henry Knox brought the cannon from Ticonderoga and how George Washington had them put on Dorchester Heights (now South Boston) to drive the British away. And since those days, Boston has always remained a monument to freedom.

A visit to Boston is a must for all Americans, for without Boston there would have been no free American life. Boston is a metropolitan area embracing a population of nearly three million. It is one of the country's largest wool markets . . . the center of the Northeast's fishing industry and one of the major seaports on the Atlantic Coast.

Boston is also the commercial, financial, retail and distribution center, not only for the Metropolitan area, but for all of New England. Boston's memories go back to 1630, to Indians, pillories and sailing ships . . . but Boston's outlook is on the world of nuclear science, and from her laboratories come the ideas that help shape the Space Age.

She is a city of great contrasts and color: Bulfinch and modern architecture; narrow cowpath alleys and sweeping superhighways; a city of scholars and sailors; of the smell of old books and the tang of fresh sea air.
Boston's universities have made her one of the world's leading centers of education, medicine, research, electronics, art and the theatre. Visitors can hear the world's best music at the Boston Symphony and from the Pops Concerts, or can sit in on the birth of new music forms in the intimate, little after-dark clubs.

Throughout the centuries, Boston has given America many gifts: patriots of old and statesmen of today; clipper ships and ocean liners cruising the seven seas; pioneers to settle the wilderness; scientists to split the atom; and the financial backing which has built many of the nation's industries. Boston is a city of many nationalities, of sports champions, of unique stores and restaurants, of great transportation gateways leading to the lands beyond the horizon. Boston is a city of beautiful spring twilights, of quiet autumn haze, of soft winter snows, and cooling Atlantic breezes in summer. So enjoy the historic sites of "Old Boston." But don't overlook the "New Boston." Enjoy yourselves and come back again for another visit — or as a permanent citizen — to the many worlds of Boston and the Massachusetts Bay.

More information on Boston is available in several publications distributed through your hotel or motel; Boston's own magazine sold at newsstands; the Office of Cultural Affairs' free telephone service 261-1660; daily events listed in Boston newspapers; or you may call the Freedom Trail Information Center on Boston Common at 426-1250, ext. 79.

1 BOSTON COMMON

Boston Common belongs to the People. In 1634, the Town bought it as a "trayning field" for militia and the "feeding of Cattell." Cows may still be kept there. The plaque marking the British troop embarkation is now inland, since Charles Street and Back Bay were filled in. In the 17th century, pirates, witches and Quakers were hung on the "Old Elm" near the Frog Pond, in the center of the 48-acre Common. On the Boylston Street side is the Central Burying Ground where Gilbert Stuart, the artist, and William Billings, America's first composer, are buried. The Boston Common underground garage offers handy parking only a short walk from the Freedom Trail Information Booth and the Freedom Trail Shuttle Bus stop.

2 STATE HOUSE AND ARCHIVES

The "New" State House was built in 1795 by Charles Bulfinch, also the architect of the Capitol Building in Washington, on land bought from John Hancock. Samuel Adams laid the cornerstone. In its Archives Museum are the Charter of the Massachusetts Bay Company of 1628, the Constitution of 1780 (the oldest written constitution still in effect) and other famous records, among them Bradford's History of Plimoth Plantation. Do not fail to see the Hall of Flags and the manuscripts and displays in the State Library.

- *Open Mon. thru Fri. (except holidays) 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Guided tours by the Doric Dames are conducted from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.*

3 PARK STREET CHURCH

Peter Banner's masterpiece — The Park Street Church — built in 1809, was described by Henry James as "the most interesting mass of brick and mortar in America." Here William Lloyd Garrison gave his first anti-slavery address (1829) and here was the first public singing of "America" (1831), both on July 4th. This site has long been known as "Brimstone Corner," not because of the fiery sermons of its early ministers, but because brimstone for gunpowder was stored in the cellar during the War of 1812.

- *Open Mon. thru Fri., 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. (9 A.M. to 4 P.M. July and August) Sun., 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.; 4:30 P.M. to 9 P.M. (Services at 10:30 A.M. and 7:30 P.M.)*

4 GRANARY BURYING GROUND

Before the Park Street Church was built, the site was occupied by the town granary, which gave its name to the cemetery. Here are the graves of three signers of the Declaration of Independence: John Hancock, Robert Treat Paine and Samuel Adams; many Governors; Chief Justice Samuel Sewall; Peter Faneuil; Paul Revere; James Otis, Benjamin Franklin's parents; and the victims of the Boston Massacre. A stone inscribed "Mary Goose" is believed by many to mark the grave of "Mother Goose."

- *Open every day 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.*

5 KING'S CHAPEL

King's Chapel — the first Episcopal Church in Boston — became, after the Revolution, the first Unitarian Church in America. The Church was organized here in 1686. The present building was completed in 1754. In Colonial Days, this church was a royal favorite. Queen Anne gave its red cushions and vestments, and George III gave its communion plate. The burying ground — sheltering Governor Winthrop and William Dawes, Jr. — was the only cemetery of the colony for its first 30 years.

- *Open Mon. thru Sat., 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., Sun. 12:30 P.M. to 4 P.M.*

6 SITE OF FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL

On April 13, 1635, the Town voted that "Or brother Philemon Pormort shalbe intreated to become scholemaster for the teaching and nourtering of children Wth us." A schoolhouse built near the present City Hall was the origin of the Boston Public Latin School, the first public school in the country. Many famous men of the past occupied its hard benches . . . Rev. Cotton Mather, Emerson, Samuel Adams, Hancock, Franklin and other signers of the Declaration of Independence.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9 - 10

11

12

13

7 STATUE OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

On the lawn of the reconstructed Old City Hall is the first portrait statue erected in Boston (1856): that of Benjamin Franklin by Richard S. Greenough. The bronze tablets on the pedestal depict the many facets and highlights in the life of this gifted Bostonian. He is shown operating a printing press, signing the Declaration of Independence, signing the Treaty of Peace with France, and experimenting with lightning. The sculptor, in a personal letter, said that he found one side of Franklin's face to be gay and smiling, while the other was that of a sober, sedate statesman. The observer may be able to detect this difference in the statue.

8 OLD CORNER BOOK STORE

The Thomas Crease House was built in, or shortly after, 1712 on the site of the home of Anne Hutchinson. This, in the nineteenth century, was the site first of the publishing house of Ticknor and Fields, and then of the Old Corner Book Store. Here met the authors who made Boston the Athens of America. To the store came Longfellow, Emerson, Hawthorne, Holmes, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Whittier and Julia Ward Howe.

The Boston Globe and Historic Boston, Inc. now maintain the restored building as an example of early construction and a memory of Boston's day of literary leadership ● *Open Mon. thru Wed., 9 A.M. to 7:30 P.M.*

9 AND 10 OLD SOUTH MEETING HOUSE

The Old South Meeting House, where Samuel Adams acted as Deacon and Town Clerk, was both a church and a town meeting house. Any Boston Town Meeting that was too big for Faneuil Hall was adjourned to the Old South. The most famous such meeting thus adjourned triggered the Boston Tea Party. The building was set aside in 1877 for historical, memorial, educational and religious uses. Around the corner on Milk Street a plaque (print #10) is the site of the birthplace of Benjamin Franklin.

● *Open Oct. 1 to June 1, Mon. thru Sat., 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., June 1 to Oct. 1, Mon. thru Fri., 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., Sat. to 4 P.M. Closed Thanksgiving Day, New Year's Day and Sundays. Admission — $.25 Adults — Children under 12 free.*

11 OLD STATE HOUSE

Here "the child Independence was born," according to John Adams, our second President. Built in 1713, it was the seat of the Colonial Government and the center of activity for such patriots as James Otis, John Hancock, Samuel and John Adams. It was known as the Town House until Massachusetts became a state. Just outside, the Boston Massacre occurred. The Declaration of Independence was first read in Boston from the East balcony, and President Washington here reviewed a parade in his honor in 1789. It was here, too, that John Hancock served as first governor of the Commonwealth.

● *Open Mon. thru Sat., 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day. Admission — Adults $.50, Children $.25, Massachusetts School Children free.*

12 BOSTON MASSACRE SITE

At the next intersection below the Old State House, a ring of cobblestones marks where, on March 5, 1770, a jeering Boston crowd clashed with a British guard of nine soldiers. The colonists shouted resentment against the quartering of troops in the town. They hurled stones and debris at the Redcoats, who struck back by firing into the mob, killing five men, among them Crispus Attucks, the first black victim to die for America's freedom. Eleven days earlier a young boy, Christopher Snider, had been shot by a customs official. Thus came the first bloodshed of the growing Revolution.

13 FANEUIL HALL

Boston Town Meetings in Faneuil Hall were so active, John Adams named it "The Cradle of Liberty." Peter Faneuil gave this hall to Boston in 1742. Charles Bulfinch enlarged it in 1806. Respecting Faneuil's wishes, Faneuil Hall has always had a market on the ground floor, and a free market for ideas on the floor above. The top floor houses the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.

● *Hall — open Mon. thru Fri., 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., Sat., 9 A.M. to 12 noon, Sun., 1 P.M. to 5 P.M.*

● *Museum — open Mon. thru Fri., 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.*

Points of interest on route to Paul Revere House:
THE BOSTON STONE, brought from England about 1700, was used for grinding paint. It was also used as zero point for marking distance from Boston. THE EBENEZER HANCOCK HOUSE, 10 Marshall St., dated 1711, is the only building standing in Boston once owned by John Hancock.

14 PAUL REVERE HOUSE

Here is the oldest home in Boston, built around 1677. Paul Revere lived here from 1770 to 1800. From it he left for the Boston Tea Party in 1773, and his historic ride to Lexington in April, 1775. Many examples of his skill are exhibited in the Silver Corridor of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, as is the famous Copley portrait.

- *Open Mon. thru Sat., 9 A.M. to 5:45 P.M. Closed Holidays except Patriot's Day. Admission $.50 adults, student parties $.10, children under 14 free.*

HICHBORN HOUSE, nearby at 29 North Square, dates to c. 1710. Restored in 1951.

- *Open Sun. thru Fri., 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., closed Sat. Adults, $.50 and children, $.10 Closed Oct. 15 to May 15, except by appointment, Call 523-3508. School groups free of charge.*

15 OLD NORTH CHURCH

The Old North or Christ Church, built in 1723, is Boston's oldest standing church. On the night of April 18, 1775, two lanterns were hung in its steeple to signal the Redcoats' advance on Lexington and Concord.

- *Open daily 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. June 1 thru Sept. 30, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Oct. 1 thru May 30. Sunday services at 11 A.M.*

PAUL REVERE MALL

Cyrus Dallin's statue of Paul Revere graces the park known as Paul Revere Mall. The part played by the people of the North End in Boston's history from 1630 to 1918 is described on 13 bronze tablets set in the surrounding wall. Opposite, on Hanover St., is the only Bulfinch church still standing in Boston, St. Stephen's, dating to 1804, now restored.

16 U.S.S. CONSTITUTION

Nicknamed "Old Ironsides" from the strength of her Georgia Oak planking, the 44-gun frigate Constitution fought 40 battles and never lost one. Most famous were her victories of the War of 1812 over the Guerrier, the Java and the combination of the Cyane and the Levant. Saved from destruction by Oliver Wendell Holmes' poem in 1837, and carefully and thoroughly restored in 1927, she is the oldest commissioned ship in the U.S. Navy and the flagship of the Commandant of the First Naval District.

- *Open 9:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. daily.*

Just off the Freedom Trail . . .

A COPP'S HILL BURYING GROUND

In 1660, the colonists began to use this hill for a burying ground. More than a century later, the British troops used it for a battery site in the Revolution. Here the Redcoats set up their heavy cannon, trained on Charlestown and Bunker Hill across the water. The bodies of Rev. Cotton Mather, Price Hall and Edmund Hartt, builder of the frigate Constitution, lie here. Copp's Hill is within comfortable walking distance from Old North Church.

B BUNKER HILL MONUMENT

Every American knows the story of the Battle of Bunker Hill which took place on June 17, 1775. The Americans, badly outnumbered, repulsed the British twice and withdrew from the field only after their ammunition was gone. The remarkable courage they showed struck a spark for American morale and the spirit of independence.

- *Open Mon. thru Sat., 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. (Tower closed 3:30 P.M.)*

C HARRISON GRAY OTIS HOUSE

On your return trip to the Boston Common area, via the Government Center, you may wish to detour north on Cambridge Street to the Harrison Gray Otis House. Old West Church next door, designed by a contemporary of Bulfinch, traces its history to 1737. The Otis House, 141 Cambridge St., is Boston's best example of a late 18th century mansion. Designed by the incomparable Bulfinch for one of the town's most distinguished personages, the building reflects the dignity of a gracious era. It houses a museum of New England antiquities with many architectural exhibits.

- *Open Mon. thru Fri., 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Closed holidays. Admission $.50.*

14

15

16

A

B

C

and beyond the Freedom Trail, in the many worlds of the Massachusetts Bay Area . . .

D THE NORTH SHORE

Just north of Boston, in Saugus, is the restoration of the nation's first ironworks, an authentic, operating reproduction of the birthplace of America's vast iron and steel industry. Farther north is Salem, location of The House of the Seven Gables, The Witch House, Pioneer Village restoration and the mansions of clipper ship days. Gloucester is the home of the colorful fishing fleet; neighboring is Rockport — the summer art colony and Marblehead — the Bay area's headquarters for sailboat racing.

E LEXINGTON AND CONCORD

Approaching Lexington, visitors may follow in part the route taken by Paul Revere on his midnight ride. Here is the rendezvous of the Minutemen, the Old Buckman Tavern, built in about 1700; and the Munroe Tavern, built in 1695. Henry Kitson's idealized statue of Capt. John Parker, commander of the Minutemen, stands on Lexington Common where the first line of resistance was formed against the British Regulars. Just beyond Lexington, in the peaceful town of Concord, is the famed site of the Concord Bridge and Daniel French's statue of "The Minuteman." On that momentous day in April, 1775, "Here the embattled farmers stood and fired the shot heard round the world." Close to Concord stands the Wayside Inn, originally built in 1686. It once sheltered Washington and Lafayette and later became the setting for Longfellow's "Tales of a Wayside Inn."

F PLYMOUTH AND CAPE COD

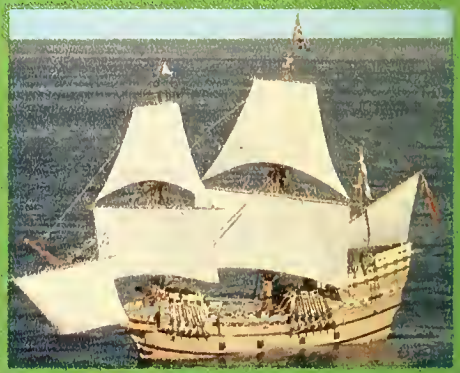
Thirty-eight miles south of Boston lies Plymouth. Here is where it all began with the landing of the Pilgrims in 1620. Visitors will see Plymouth Rock, Mayflower II — an accurate reconstruction — the Plimoth Plantation, with thatch-roofed replicas of Pilgrim homes. Also visit Antiquarian House, Harlow House, Howland House, Mayflower Society House, Pilgrim Museum, Sparrow House and Spooner House. Farther south, one reaches Cape Cod, known for its beaches, picturesque villages and summer theatres. There are also many parks, including the Federal Cape Cod National Seashore Park. Provincetown, at the tip, is renowned as an artists' colony and crafts center.

On the way to Plymouth, be sure to detour to Quincy. There, side by side on Franklin Street, you'll find the restored birthplaces of John Adams and John Quincy Adams, our second and sixth Presidents.

Open Tues. thru Sun., 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Closed Mon. Admission — $.50 for either cottage, $.75 for both. Children under 16 free, but must be accompanied by an adult.

E

D



F

1. Boston Common
2. State House and Archives
3. Park Street Church
4. Granary Burying Ground
5. King's Chapel
6. Site of First Public School
7. Statue of Benjamin Franklin
8. Old Corner Book Store
9. and 10. Old South Meeting House
11. Old State House
12. Boston Massacre Site
13. Faneuil Hall
14. Paul Revere House
15. Old North Church
16. U.S.S. Constitution

Just off the Freedom Trail . . .

A. Copp's Hill Burying Ground
B. Bunker Hill Monument
C. Harrison Gray Otis House

● ● ● ● ● ● ● If you drive to Boston Common, park in the Underground Garage, or arrive via MBTA at Park Street Station. Please check the opening times of places and whether there are religious services during your visit.

In addition to regular MBTA bus service running 7 A.M. to 6 P.M., Monday through Friday, there are Special Freedom Trail buses in operation from early summer through late fall. They pick up and drop passengers off at the Information Center on Tremont Street . . . or at any of the five stops along the way. The cost of the bus is 20¢ for each uninterrupted ride between sites or 20¢ each way. In addition to the Information Center, this bus also stops at Beacon Street opposite the State House, the corner of Congress and State Steets, St. Stephens Church and the U.S.S. Constitution. The return trip from the U.S.S. Constitution features stops at Paul Revere Mall, Kings Chapel, and, of course, the Information Center. The first special Freedom Trail bus leaves from the Information Center at 10 A.M., while the last return bus from the U.S.S. Constitution leaves at 4:30 P.M. For those who do not wish to walk the 2½ miles from Old North Church to the U.S.S. Constitution, the MBTA has buses marked Rt. 3 South Station that run from 3:30 to 5:50 P.M. Monday through Friday. From Haymarket Square, you may take an Orange Line streetcar marked Everett to City Square, a very short walk to the U.S.S. Constitution. Visitors may take any Green Line subway from Haymarket Square to Park Street to return to the beginning of the Freedom Trail.

It was in 1856 when Harvey D. Parker first opened the doors of the Famed Parker House. During that year he made two great marks in the history of the Parker House by introducing the American Plan (a single price for lodging and meals) and creating the Parker House Roll, which is now known and loved world-over.

Because of its great history, it is only natural that the Freedom Trail should begin practically at the doors of the Parker House. It was here that such famed literary figures as Emerson, Lowell, Longfellow, Holmes, Whittier, Hawthorne, Agassiz and even Charles Dickens once made this their focal point for gatherings.

Today the past has been preserved in Dunfey's at the Parker House, a turn-of-the-century eating, meeting and drinking place that would make James Michael Curley, Lillian Russell and other famed Boston characters proud. Mustachioed waiters in snappy spats serve sirloin, chicken and seafood by the pound, soups and chowders in mugs or crocks. There's a self-service salad bar that lets you design your own concoction of lettuce and garnishes. Stop by for a drink or two and an earful of good entertainment. Dunfey's at the Parker House, where you can Eat and Drink to the Last Hurrah.

Combining the old with the new, the Parker House and the Dunfey Family are proud to co-sponsor "The Freedom Trail and the Many Worlds of Boston."

Your hosts . . .

the Dunfey Family